

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 MC-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AEC-11 SS-20 SPC-03 EB-11 COME-00

NSF-04 DRC-01 AECE-00 /174 W  
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P R 211743Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5665

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBSSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, EC

SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

REF: STATE 245034

SCI FOR POLLACK

SUMMARY: EC SUMMIT AGREEMENT TO HARMONIZE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS  
AND APPARENT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF EURODIF IS SEEN AS  
STRENGTHENING FRENCH POSITION ON ENRICHMENT AND DIMINISHING  
INTEREST IN US-EURODIF NEGOTIATIONS ON COOPERATION END SUMMARY.

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1. RESPECTED LE MONDE JOURNALIST VICHNEY GAVE SCIATT GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY OF US-EURODIF COOPERATION. HIS MAIN POINT WAS THAT POMPIDOU'S SUCCESS AT EC SUMMIT IN GETTING AGREEMENT ON HARMONIZING EXISTING EUROPEA ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS LEFT FRENCH IN SUCH A STRONG POSITION THAT THEY DO NOT NEED US-EURODIF COOPERATION. VICHNEY SAID THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT GENERALLY FELT THAT THE US AEC RESPONSE TO EUROPEAN UTILITIES GROUP (OPEN) HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING AND HAD IN EFFECT ENDED POSSIBILITY OF TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, A DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH GOF, ESPECIALLY THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE (CEA), WAS NOT ADVERSE. (THE CEA WHILE WANTING TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SOME US TECHNOLOGIES, PARTICULARLY BARRIERS, WAS HESITANT TO RISK DELAY IN EURODF PROJECT FOR LENGTHY GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS AND IT WAS THE CEA, NOT THE ENERGY SECRETARIAT WHICH HAD FINAL WORD. A FEW DAYS LATER SITUATION APPEARED TO BE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED BY THE SECRETARY'S ENERGY PROPOSALS, ON THE EVE OF THE EC SUMMIT. HOWEVER, VICHNEYCONTINUED, THESE PROPOSALS GENERATED INSUFFICIENT ENTHUSIASM AT EC SUMMIT TO INTERFERE WITH POMPIDOU'S EFFORT TO OBTAIN UNIFIED EC POSITION ON ENRICHED URANIUM.

2. VICHNEY ADDED THAT GOF HAD SECURED SOVIET AGREEMENT TO PUT AT GOF'S DISPOSAL 3 TO 4 MILLION SWU'S TO FILL POSSIBLE ORDERS BEFORE EURODIF GOES INTO OPERATION, AROUND 1979-1980.

3. COMMENT: VICHNEY IS GENERALLY AUTHORITATIVE NUCLEAR SOURCE ON GOOD TERMS WITH CEA HEAD GIRAUD. HIS ANALYSIS DESERVES ATTENTION THOUGH IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ACCEPT IT COMPLETELY JUST YET. UNTIL RECENTLY, FRANCE WAS ISOLATED ON ENRICHMENT FROM ITS MAJOR EC PARTNERS, UK AND FRG, WHO OPPOSED EURODIF. WITH THE EC AGREEMENT "TO SEEK A CONCERTED AND HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING PROJECTS" (EURODIF AND URENCO), FRANCE IS IN MUCH STRONGER POSITION, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO OBTAINING EC BUYING PREFERENCES. THE APPARENT APPROVAL BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OF ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN EURODIF WOULD FURTHER FORTIFY FRENCH POSITION. IN ADDITION, GOF HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO OUR APPROACH PER REFTEL AND IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO BEFORE JANUARY 2.

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## Message Attributes

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**Reference:** STATE 245034  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** URANIUM ENRICHMENT  
**TAGS:** TECH, TGEN, EC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005